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CITE EXTENSION



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July 1990 (Issue 1)

AG* SAT

—Useful Communication Tool

Eldon E. Fredericks

Jack McBride, Executive Director of AG* SAT, an agricultural satellite corporation based at the University of Nebraska, passed along a copy of the *U. S. Congressional Record* dated May 24, 1990. In this document, Senator James Exon (NE) referred to AG SAT as "... an unparalleled collaboration of schools from across the country which have recognized the critical value of agriculture to

the Nation and the critical need to maintain and enhance its competitiveness."

Mission Is Sharing

AG* SAT's mission is to share agricultural faculty and financial resources by delivering credit and non-credit courses, seminars, and other instructional and educational programs to the students on campus, farmers and ranchers at Extension sites, and researchers in their

laboratories. Cooperative Extension programming can be taken, via AG* SAT, from the Extension agent to farmers and ranchers throughout the country. Land-grant scientists and experiment station directors will also benefit from shared information.

Consortium of Schools

Initial members of AG* SAT, a consortium of 30 land-grant universities, include the Universities of

Arizona, California, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, and Wisconsin; Clemson, Colorado State, Cornell, Iowa State, Kansas State, Louisiana State, Michigan State, Mississippi State, North Carolina A&T, North Carolina State, Ohio State, Oklahoma State, Oregon State, Penn State, Purdue, Rutgers, Texas A&M, Tuskegee, Utah State, Washington State, and Virginia Tech.

UMR

Extends Its Resources Globally

Academic Extension, the new name for the University of Missouri-Rolla's (UMR) outreach programs, reflects a new emphasis on nontraditional clients of the University, according to the June 1990 issue of the *Exclaimer*. "UMR continues its commitment to resident instruction, but part of our future lies in our ability to serve nontraditional customers," says Kenneth M. Ragsdell, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs-Extension.

Reaching Out In Five Areas

Academic Extension's outreach encompasses five units: Continuing Education; the Center for International Programs and Studies; Media-based Programs; the Design Engineering Center; and the Center for Technology Transfer and Economic Development. All deal with transferring new technologies to businesses and industries.

Educating the Place-Bound Client

Media-based Programs, explored in more depth in

the *Exclaimer* (p.4), is the center for developing video programming for on- and off-campus clients. The unit produces videotaped and live programs for its clients from its \$750,000 video communications center, which houses state-of-the-art production equipment in 3/4-inch and Super VHS formats. The center has a KU Band satellite uplink transmitter and KU-C Band downlink receiver capability, plus a studio and classroom facilities.

"The way in which we deliver educational programs is changing because student needs and their locations have

changed," says Ginny Pearson, Director of Media-based Programs. "Today we find nontraditional, place-bound students who want to pursue a degree, but can't afford to leave their homes. We bring the course to the student. The latest in technology makes that possible..."

For information about this effort, contact Kenneth M. Ragsdell, Academic Extension, 103 Mechanical Engineering Annex, UMR, Rolla, MO 65401; telephone: 314-341-4158. To learn more about Media-based Programs, contact Ginny Pearson at the above address; telephone: 314-341-4962.

M

Meet CIT

Joyce Calvaruso is a CIT information assistant. Deaf from birth, and trained at the Marie H. Katzenback School for the Deaf in West Trenton, NJ, she has made all of us aware of the need for more specialized communication—namely, sign language.

Native of Garden State

Joyce was born in Camden, NJ. By the time she was 4-1/2 years old, she was already enrolled at the (then) New Jersey School for the Deaf. There she trained in sign, lipreading, and regular academics. But there was a bonus to her schooling. Because she was with others who could not hear, she learned to think of herself and her schoolmates as just "average kids who couldn't hear." Her family also encouraged this feeling, treating her the same as hearing members.

Leaving for Washington, DC

Joyce graduated from high school in 1964, worked for 5 years at the hospital where her mother was a registered nurse, and moved to the Washington, DC, area (Maryland) in 1970. Her dad, a retired federal employee, encouraged her to work for the Government, and she joined USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) in 1971. She came to ES-USDA in 1981, where she answers written requests from states, counties, other federal agencies, and the general public who ask for information and publications. Joyce also updates the list of available publications from the Government Printing Office, CIT's publications database, and any new microfiche. She is a member of the team that produces *Extension Review* and helps with distribution of *CIT Extension*. In 1983, during the National

Employ the Handicapped Week observances, she received a Certificate of Recognition from the Secretary of Agriculture for her outstanding contributions to ES-USDA.

Efforts to Educate

Outside her regular duties, Joyce has helped increase staff awareness of the need to learn and use sign language. While some CITers are more expert than others, many are at least stumbling their way through the alphabet using a public domain computer sign language program and a series of books and videotapes, *The Joy of Signing*. Joyce is patient with us, teaching us signs to avoid our laboriously spelling out long words. Our efforts are sometimes too much for her—though she tries hard not to, she has to laugh! Her membership on our staff has given us opportunity for a unique educational experience.



Son Interprets Double

Joyce's son, Jason, a hearing teenager, has known sign language from the age of 2. He has double duty, interpreting for Joyce and her husband, Lee. She is also "Mom" to her stepdaughter, Jennifer, and her dog and cat. She relaxes by sewing country crafts, reading, participating in social affairs for the deaf, and cheering for Lee at bowling tournaments.

A

uburn Hosts Computer Networking Conference

July 31-August 2

Gene Simpson, Auburn University's computer coordinator, reminds us that the Second Annual Southern Regional Extension Computer Networking

Conference is scheduled for July 31 to August 2.

Extension computer staff from outside the Southern Region are welcome to attend. Simpson requests that each state prepare a one-page over-

view of their computer networking involvement for the benefit of other attendees.

For hotel reservations (due by July 25), contact the Auburn University Hotel and Conference

Center at 205-821-8200. For questions, comments, or suggestions about the program, call Simpson at 205-844-9660; his electronic mail address is:

esimpson@acenet.auburn.edu.

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